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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 33 | Min 19 | Humidity 36% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 59,832 | Nifty 17,599 | Gold 60,515 | Silver 74,554 | Dollar 81.84 | Euro 89.98 | GBP 101.65

State of circle a testament to neglect of civic bodies towards public infra even in an assembly election year

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Bust of SG Balekundri established at the circle in 2005

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It seems as though the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has forgotten about the existence of SG Balekundri Circle on Queen's Road in Shivajinagar assembly constituency. Bengaluru Smart City Limited developed the Balekundri Circle last year spending lakhs of rupees.

The bust of SG Balekundri was established at the circle on May 10, 2005 by Dharam Singh, the chief minister at the time. HD Deve Gowda too was present on the occasion.

It is quite disgusting as well as shocking to see all types of garbage dumped around the podium of the bust. Balekundri may be turning in his grave for having his bust established at this circle. Balekundri, a famous irrigation engineer, was born on May 5, 1922. He passed away on January 8, 1993.

The authorities have developed the space around Balekundri's bust at the circle by paving a footpath around the space; but they have forgotten about it soon after constructing it.

"I expect the BBMP or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

Garbage around SG Balekundri's bust on Queen's Road

"I will inform the BBMP authorities and request them to keep the place clean and neat
— Dr Vijayalakshmi Balekundri, daughter of SG Balekundri

Smoke on the water

Crematorium by lake extensively used during pandemic began leaking smoke back then

| Garima Prasher
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Thick black smoke and pungent odour from the crematorium near Panathur Lake in east Bengaluru have made life difficult for residents in the area.

Senior citizens used to frequent the walkway of the waterbody regularly after it was revived in 2018. Now the majority of them have stopped their walks by the lake.

Local residents said the crematorium was extensively used during the pandemic and the smoke-leak started back then. However, years later, the chimney has not been fixed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), which is causing a lot of inconvenience to the walkers and residents.

"This is the only crematorium in the Mahadevpura region and was used extensively during the pandemic. While residents made peace with the issue then as all the crematoriums were functioning to their full capacity, the authorities are yet to fix the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Art and crafts

Grab a chance to shop handcrafted goodies from ethnic wears to home decor, furniture, shoes, articrafts, and more. Rajasthan Handloom and Handicraft Expo is being organised by various artisans from various parts of India at Yelahanka.
Where: BDK Kalyana Mandapa, Santhe Circle, Airport Road flyover, Nehru Nagar, Yelahanka
When: April 9 to 16; 10:30 am to 8: 30 pm

02 Singing legends

Stalwarts of Music with Aditya Veera is back with another interesting episode from his home studio at Malleswaram. Today, the show features Ana Popovic, an award-winning Serbian Blues guitar player and our very own Indian artist Aditi Ramesh. **Where: live from @adix70**
When: April 9; 8:30 pm

03 Your favourite

Here's a chance to watch one of the best stories originally written by Ernest Hemingway in the form of a play. Directed by S Surendranath, Old Man and the Sea narrates the struggle between an old fisherman and a fish. After looking for a catch for 84 days, the man finally catches a big fish on the 85th day. However, the old man couldn't pull it out of the water. Watch the man's struggle and how he survives through it.
Where: Ranga Shankara; When: Sunday, April 23

Feeling weight on your back? Take action now

City hospitals see increasing number of cases of neck and back pain among younger population, doctors blame faulty postures

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While orthopedic issues are fairly common in the older population, healthcare experts say they are noticing a surge in the number of younger patients reaching out for neck and back pain issues.

Hospitals say most outpatient department (OPD) cases are related to neck and back pain, which has increased since the pandemic-era trend of working from home. Now that offices have started in offline mode, more people are walking in for physiotherapy sessions for back and neck pain issues.

"Almost 65% to 75% of OPD cases at our hospital are neck and back pain. Moreover, the age group of these patients has now come down from 50 to 75 years to 23 to 40 years. Earlier it was more of an age-related degenerative case, but now it is being seen in a much younger population," said Dr Palak Dengla, chief physiotherapist, Aster RV Hospital.

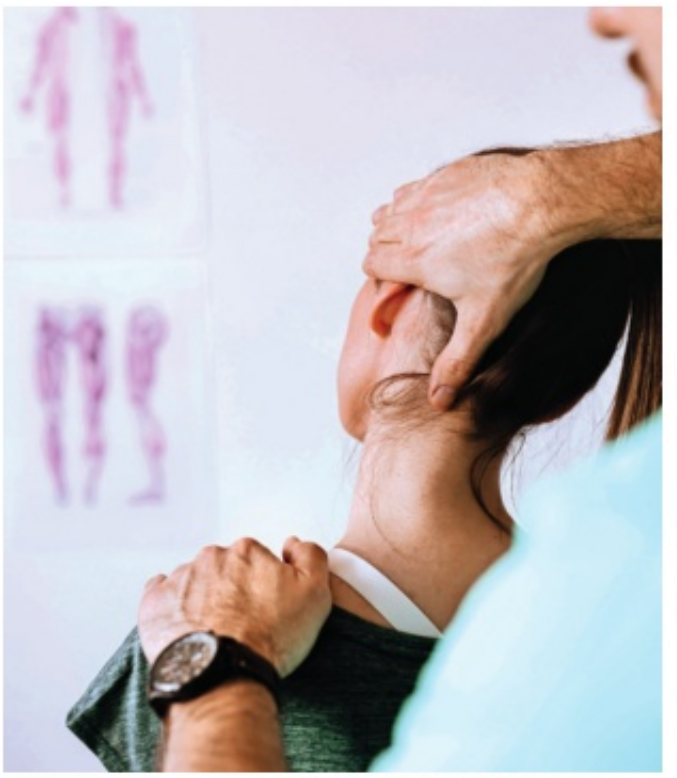
The experts opine that faulty sitting, standing and sleeping postures, and mental stress can lead to joint, muscle, spine, and nerve issues. Hospitals say complaints are generally that of pain in the back on sitting even for 10 minutes, neck pain, pain in the back while standing after sitting for some time, pain during bending forward, inability to turn in bed at night, etc.

According to the doctors, while the human body has its compensatory mechanisms to combat most of the acute stresses, faulty postures, if used repetitively, lead to structural and biomechanical changes in the tissues. This makes individuals more prone to disc prolapse (slipped disk) due to weakening spinal musculature, a side effect of sitting for long hours.

Moreover, as most of the companies had the concept of working from home during covid pandemic, people used to sit all over the place, didn't use appropriate desks, and sat on their living room sofas, or recliners.

"We have even come across clients mentioning using their sleeping mattresses as part of their workstations. Due to the faulty postures attained then, their side effects were setting in slowly. Thus, as covid restrictions got lifted, most of the clients started coming in with an acute, chronic complaint of neck and back pain," said a doctor from another private hospital in the city.

Taking frequent water breaks and keeping reminders on the phone to take a stretch break every two hours can go a long way, say the city hospitals.



The experts say that faulty sitting, standing and sleeping postures, and mental stress can lead to spine and joint issues

> **"Almost 65% to 75% of OPD cases at our hospital are neck and back pain. The age group of these patients has now come down** – Dr Dengla

"One should often take breaks while working, a 60-second break every 40 minute will help with musculoskeletal issues. People facing such issues should follow the right ergonomic advice given by the physiotherapists, for instance, follow the rule of 20-20-20 to take care of your eyes, go for water breaks once an hour, physically meet and discuss with colleagues rather than pinging them on chats, keep reminders in the phone to take a stretch break every 2 hours. One of my favorites is the use of a separate mouse and keyboard when using a laptop," added Dr Dengla.

Bengaluru in a circle of civic apathy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

horticulture department to depute one or two pourakarmikas to remove garbage and ensure cleanliness here. Garbage and plastic bottles are an eyesore for pedestrians and those waiting for a BMTC bus," said Murthy N, a pedestrian. "I was happy when the authorities took up development of the circle. The authorities have planted saplings which are withering due to lack of water. Who asked the BBMP to plant saplings if it is not able to water these saplings?" wondered Mohammed Shareef, an auto rickshaw driver.

Similarly, Bangalore Mirror published a story about the state of a fountain at KR Circle on December 27. Though BBMP executive engineer at the traffic engineering cell Jayasimha assured to fix the problem at the time, till date, nothing has been done. "We attended to the problem but some miscreants broke the water pipes and lights at the fountain," said Jayasimha.

Withered saplings behind SG Balekundri bust. Some coloured stones are missing from Raj Bhavan Road and Sankey Road

Meanwhile, Dr Vijayalakshmi Balekundri, the daughter of S G Balekundri, said the space around the bust of her father was clean when she visited the spot on the occasion of her father's birthday on May 5. "I will inform the BBMP authorities and request them to keep the place clean and neat," said Dr Vijayalakshmi.

The condition of the circle between Raj Bhavan Road and Sankey Road is somewhat better. Some of the coloured stones on the podium are missing however.

No boundaries in red light sites: Sextortion cases rise

Groups on social media platforms offering sexual services have no age filter

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Many citizens have reported being robbed by social media groups claiming to offer sexual services

Social media platforms have made sex easily accessible to youngsters. There are hundreds of channels and accounts for prostitution on the internet with thousands of subscribers which are easily accessible to anyone using the platform.

Most of these groups do not require any approval from the admin to join. Therefore, there is effectively no age filter on these groups and minors have access to them too.

A channel on a popular social media platform has over 30,000 subscribers. The admin of the group informed that the channel can be used for booking sex workers offline.

However, these groups have also created panic among citizens across Bengaluru. A resident of Whitefield, who caught her 16-year-old son using this channel, said, "Everyone has a smart phone these days and teenagers are all on social media. I can't always regulate what they are up to and what sites they are browsing. I found out that my son was on one of these channels. I noticed that many of his friends were also there in the group. There was also a conversation where someone sent multiple obscene photos to the group asking men to 'choose a girl'."

> **He (group admin) asked me to make the payment in advance, saying he would send me the location thereafter**
> – Bengaluru resident

A person who is a part of another such group on a social media platform said that he had paid an advance to book an appointment with a sex worker. However, he was removed and blocked from the group after making the payment, he reported.

"I joined the group and later, when I contacted the booker, he sent me several pictures of people to choose from. He asked me to make the payment in advance, saying that he would only send me the location after. I paid money via internet banking and was blocked from that account after the transaction was a success," he said.

Women's rights activist Madhu Bhushan said, "Legally, the act of prostitution is not considered a crime. It is only a problem when someone is doing it in a public place or someone is living off the earnings of another woman. If someone decides to do sex work for money and uses social media for the same, it is not a crime. However, if people on these platforms are getting exploited, then it becomes a crime."

'Chocolate row' ends in suicide

Allegedly irked by her husband for not bringing chocolates after an argument, a 30-year-old woman died by hanging herself at Honnappa Layout near Hennur Bande on Thursday afternoon, said police.

The couple, Nandini and Goutham, had known each other from college. While Goutham was leaving for his workplace, both had an argument, as per the police. Nandini asked Goutham to buy her chocolates. He left saying he would return with chocolates but did not answer Nandini's calls, police said.

Around 11:45 pm, Nandini sent him a message stating that 'she was going'. A panicked Goutham called her but found his calls went unanswered. He rushed home to find Nandini hanging. Nandini's family did not make any allegations against him.

To 'avoid transfer', woman ends life

Meanwhile, police are investigating the case of a woman who reportedly died by suicide by jumping from the fourth floor of a building. The woman allegedly ended her life due to transfer anxiety.

The victim, a manager in the Indian Oil Corporation, received an order to transfer to Odisha. According to the police, she ended her life on April 6.

(With agency inputs)

Fake passport leads to arrests

The Kempegowda International Airport police said on Saturday that they arrested two Bangladeshi nationals who came to Bengaluru with a fake Indian passport. Police said that the two landed in Bengaluru on an Indigo flight from Singapore on Friday. When their passports were checked at the airport, they were found to be fake.

Later, police took them into custody for interrogation. **BMB**

Health & wellness belong in classrooms

Curriculum framework puts focus on guidance and counselling

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The health and wellness of students in schools have become increasingly important, especially in the post-covid era. The National Curriculum Framework for School Education emphasised that guidance and counselling can support the attainment of educational aims by contributing to creating an ethos of overall well-being and teaching individuals an ethic of care and mutual respect.

According to the NCF, physical health, and wellness are crucial needs for growing up and require careful addressing by schools. "Designing programs that contribute to good health and physical fitness for all students across the stages in their school life is a central goal.

Not just physical, there is a need to prioritise psychological health and wellness as well. With a primary focus on students, guidance and counselling work must teach strategies for emotional regulation and positive motivation. While mild to moderate challenges with mental health can receive counselling support within the school, it would be necessary to direct students and families to more qualified professionals outside the school system for clinical diagnosis and support," the report stated.

> **With a primary focus on students, counselling work must teach strategies for emotional regulation**
> – NCF report

Regarding the reasons for introducing health and wellness, the draft stated that the classroom and the school were sites for emotional learning, growth, and expression, which were probably the most occupying for teachers at this stage. "Students themselves go through unpredictable mood states and energy fluctuations, often grappling with a sense of unexplainable wellness or not-so-wellness. Middle Stage pedagogy must allow for some amount of engagement with emotional experiences through quiet discussion and reflection. Curricular areas can be used as contexts in which individual responses can be parsed. The teacher will have to find a balance in the approach to students' emotions - an approach that is neither intrusive nor indulgent, but reasonably firm, rationally clear, and emotionally caring towards students of this stage," the report said.

Importance of games

The NCF emphasises the importance of exercising the mind just as exercising the body is crucial to maintaining good health. Encouraging children to play games that involve strategy, logic, word puzzles, and recreational mathematics is an excellent way to spark their interest in mathematics and foster their logical thinking skills.

Spatial reasoning can be developed through activities such as solving jigsaw puzzles, playing with blocks, and solving mazes. Strategic thinking and problem-solving skills can be enhanced through playing games such as tic-tac-toe and chess.

Playing games such as Chaupad, Snakes and Ladders, and Ludo can be a fun way to teach counting, strategy, collaboration, healthy competition, and bonding with peers.

Peculiar turn of events trashing HRBR Layout

Residents allege pourakarmikas in Banaswadi dumping garbage near their homes leading to formation of black spots in area

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Residents in the area said that there should be a permanent solution, and boards must be placed at these spots; the situation changed when BBMP officials were informed and marshals came to the spot

Rampant garbage dumping and the subsequent formation of black spots are a common problem across Bengaluru. However, the situation in the Banaswadi area is unusual. Residents allege that pourakarmikas themselves are contributing to the black spots there. Secluded areas and vacant plots often become victims of garbage dumping, but in a strange allegation, residents of Banaswadi say that pourakarmikas are collecting dry waste from homes and dumping it on the streets.

"Pourakarmikas are collecting garbage from other areas and dumping it outside our houses near 10th B Main, HRBR Layout. The area is at the end of HRBR Layout, and adjacent to that is a graveyard. The place is empty and might be adding to the mess. On top of that, citizens also continue to dump garbage. We have been facing this issue for a long time and have addressed the same with the corporator at ward committee meetings," said Melson, a resident.

Another resident, Ashok, said, "Next to my house, there is a garbage dump. The land in question is under dispute, and we have been repeatedly asking officials to fix the issue. Pourakarmikas are picking up dry waste daily but are dumping it near houses along with other irresponsible members of the public. At times, garbage is also burnt at these spots. The issue has been going on for at least a year and has been brought to the attention of officials. Whenever we call and complain, it is cleared, and the next day, the problem starts all over again."

Residents said that there should be a permanent solution, and boards must be put at these spots. "Once, when we complained, marshals came to the spot. Due to the rampant dumping, rats, stray dogs, and cattle continue to hound the area," added Ashok.

> **"Garbage is also being burnt. The issue has been going on for at least a year and has been brought to the attention of officials** – Ashok, resident

A resident of OMBR Layout, Prema Bhai, told Bangalore Mirror that a few days ago, when she complained to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the leaves were removed from the area. However, the remaining garbage was not removed. "Pourakarmikas are dumping waste near my house. After the dry leaves were dumped in the area, residents across Banaswadi began to dump their trash.

We called BBMP marshals, and the situation has been changed for now."

Black smoke & pungent odour

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

issue here. The smoke has been escaping from the ventilator of the building, which is located adjacent to the lake pathway," said a resident.

An open burial ground adjacent to the crematorium has made matters worse. According to the residents, the lake bund, more frequently than not, is found littered with remnants of artefacts from funeral rites, making the walkers uncomfortable.

The lake was rejuvenated in 2018 by BBMP; it was not fenced however.

"Not only is the stench from the crematorium reaching the nearby houses and apartment complexes, people using the burial ground and crematorium litter the lake with ritualistic artefacts too.

They use the lake for various purposes including washing themselves. In the absence of fencing and a caretaker, such activities continue unabated," said Rajni Kaveri, another resident of the area.

Residents said while they have reached out to BBMP listing all the above issues, the officials concerned have not taken any action so far.

"We reached out to BBMP. The area MLA visited the lake nearly two months ago and promises were made that the pending development work at the lake would be taken up and completed. However, nothing has happened so far," Kaveri told BM.

Thanks to multiple issues plaguing the lake area, the recently revived waterbody wears a deserted look as people have stopped going for their walks and recreational activities here.

"Citizens are not comfortable walking around the lake due to these issues. Smoke emanating from a crematorium and lake bund littered with ritualistic artefacts are not welcome sights; it makes walkers uncomfortable. BBMP must fence the waterbody and post security guards, which is when residents might visit the place again," said Balaji, a lake activist.

While Bangalore Mirror tried to reach out to the BBMP officials concerned, our repeated attempts went unanswered.

Assets case: Public Prosecutor appointed

Government's Law Department has appointed advocate Kiran S Javali as the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) to dispose of the movable properties of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa that were seized in the disproportionate assets case against her. The notification for the appointment was issued on March 27.

The 1996 disproportionate assets case was transferred to Karnataka from Tamil Nadu by the Supreme Court in 2003 which led to her conviction by a special court for CBI cases in 2014. The assets were seized from Jayalalithaa's residence on December 11, 1996.

The material evidence seized from Jayalalithaa's residence in Chennai is currently in the custody of the Karnataka Government. These include seven kilograms of gold and diamond ornaments, 600 kilograms of silver ornaments, over 11,000 sarees, 750 footwear, 91 watches, 131 suitcases, 1,040 video cassettes, electrical goods including air-conditioners and refrigerators and other pieces of clothing.

The CBI had written to the Registrar General of the Karnataka High Court in October 2022 about the need for a Special Public Prosecutor to dispose of movable assets.

RTI activist T Narasimhamurthy had approached the special court seeking details of disposing of the assets seized in the case.

He had also sought information from the public information office which was directed by the court to provide him the details. – PTI

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Dup up road

Lalbagh

The road in Lalbagh has been dug up by a telecom agency.

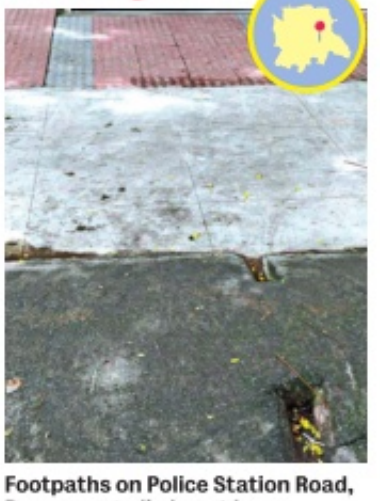
Fixing needed

BTM Layout

Streetlights are needed and potholes need to be fixed in BTM Layout 2nd Stage.

Water woes

Basavanagudi



Footpaths on Police Station Road, Basavanagudi, do not have shoulder drains for rainwater to enter stormwater drains. Water is entering apartments.

THE SUNDAY READ

Camping code

Child rights activists have these suggestions to ensure summer vacation is fun and safe for kids

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Summer vacations are round the corner and of course it is time for summer camps. Child rights activists have written to the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights with just one simple demand -- make camps more child-friendly.

As the academic year in schools draws to a close, a large number of children will be enrolling in summer camps. While summer camps are said to be vastly beneficial for the overall growth of children, activists highlight a slew of problems with these activities. The child rights group has written to the Commission for Protection of Child Rights to issue a circular to make the summer camps more child-friendly.

As per the recommendations, individuals or organisations intending to hold a summer camp should take prior written permission and a complete list of children who will participate and their parents should be provided. Additionally, all summer camps should provide drinking water. Special toilet facilities must be provided for disabled children as well as girl children. In case of night-stayover, separate arrangements should be made for girl children.

The child rights group further suggested that background information of the camp leaders or other elders associated with children should be shared with the department concerned. Child Protection Policy should be adopted in the camp and the children should be made aware of it. Within the premises of the camp venue, Child Helpline numbers 1098 and 112 should be displayed and additionally, a complaint box should be installed for children. To ensure the camp is child-friendly, members of the Child Rights Unit must visit the camp from time to time.

Camps for children should be organised in a way that children are not discriminated against and the activities of the camps must not inconvenience disabled children in any way. To ensure the safety of the children, organisers must be in touch with doctors and health professionals and a first-aid kit must be present at the venue. Respecting the privacy of children, written permission of parents must be sought before uploading photos on social media. Contact information about a police station in the area and Child Welfare officials should be displayed within the premises.

"The recommendations have been made in the larger interest of the children and the Commission is requested to issue a circular or press conference to make the summer camps more child friendly," said the Director of Child Rights Trust, Nagasimha G Rao.

In the summertime, when the weather's fine

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Post-covid, some schools see dull response to summer camps, while others report much enthusiasm — we take a look at how schools are gearing up to make it a memorable vacation

Although summer camps went offline last year, some city schools say the popularity of the camps is yet to reach pre-covid levels. While the number of enrolments is higher than last year, some parents are still hesitant to send their children to the camps.

"The number of students this year in the summer camps is much more than last year. We have nearly 300 students enrolled for various courses in the camp. Last year, when offline summer camps began after a gap of two years, we hardly had around 50 students. Having said that, this is nowhere close to the number of students we used to get before the pandemic," said Anita Bijesh, principal, Delhi Public School.

Schools say while more parents are enrolling their children, there are inhibitions post-covid-19. Moreover, now that covid restrictions are lifted, many families have decided to go travelling too.

"This vacation, more parents are traveling. We will have to wait another year before we reach pre-covid level in terms of enrolments. Before covid, we used to get around 500 students in various courses. Moreover, children's ability to cope has also taken a hit and the pandemic has made younger ones more sensitive," said the principal of another city-based private school.

Some schools, however, have reported a higher number of enrolments this year compared to pre-covid time. They say they are overwhelmed with the turnout, and it is because parents, post the pandemic, are looking for ways to ensure the holistic development of their children.

"The number of students that have enrolled is more than pre covid time. Parents are increasingly opting for summer camps to engage their kids in various activities, instead of sitting at home during vacations. Also, working parents are often stressed about ensuring proper childcare during vacations," said Aloysius D'mello, principal, Greenwood High International School.

While covid cases are climbing up again, schools say they are not too worried and taking necessary precautions.

"We started the camp on April 3 and the number of cases started rising after that. But, we have not received any concerns from parents yet. While we tell children to wear masks and carry sanitiser, wearing masks while participating in a sports event is not feasible. We have put out an advisory regarding the growing number of cases. If we find anybody is not well, we get the child checked and call the parents to take the child home," informed Bijesh.

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• Must have experience in Tally and MS office
• Must have experience of TDS, ECS, PF filing
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• Qualification: BSc AG
• Experience: 5-8 years of exp in agricultural field
• Software: MS office • Languages: Kannada and english
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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

SWALLOW TAIL

A wire-tailed swallow on the outskirts of Bengaluru

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Sridhar Comaravalli**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

On the right track

Railways to upgrade train speed to reduce travel time between Bengaluru and Chennai

The Railway is all set to reduce travel time between Bengaluru and Chennai as it plans to operate premium trains such as Chennai-Bengaluru Shatabdi Express and Chennai-Mysuru Vande Bharat Express along with some other trains at 130 kmph between Chennai and Jolarpettai starting June.

As a result, these trains are expected to save between 30 to 45 minutes on the Bengaluru route. However, travel time for other trains to Chennai is likely to be reduced as many of them use the Jolarpettai route taken by the above mentioned trains.

The Railways is also working to upgrade tracks from Chennai for higher speed operation. The zone is identifying several trains that pass through the route to operate them at an increased speed, which may require different types of testing. The coaches and locomotives already have the capacity to run at 130 kmph, thanks to the upgraded tracks. Hence, the railways were able to increase the speed of many trains.

Artificial lake for training

Rescue and retrieval from coaches that have fallen into water bodies during accidents remains a major challenge even today. Since 2018, the railways has procured ultrathermic cutting equipment which can be used for underwater cutting of metal bodies, but the full potential of the equipment has not been tested due to a lack of divers or specialised training.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Forces (SDRFs) have divers but lack such equipment or training to handle such special emergencies.

"To address this gap with synergic efforts, Indian Railways Institute of Disaster Management (IRIDM) is planning to organise a specialised training for underwater rescue and retrieval from railway coaches involving NDRF, SDRF in addition to Railway staff working in accident relief trains from April 10 to14 at IRIDM, Bengaluru," said an official.

For this purpose, an artificial lake has been constructed for conducting such training and this is being utilised for diving under the supervision of expert trainers from external agencies.

"One railway coach will be cut into three pieces and placed in a water body to simulate different scenarios. Exposure to handling state of art equipment for underwater cutting is given for handling various challenging situations," they explained .

The other aspects covered in the programme includes structural aspects of coach to identify suitable locations for gaining easy entry with suitable cutting equipment, hands on training on the condemned coaches on ground for appreciation of task, underwater cutting of coach with different equipment, retrieval of bodies through doors, windows and openings created with the help of cutting equipment by divers, and recovery of coaches in extreme conditions, they added. — **BMB**

DID YOU KNOW?

Nagarabhavi, a residential area in west Bengaluru is traditionally known as the home of Bengaluru University. The literal meaning of the name is a well of snakes in Kannada. It is said that the place got its name because it has a huge number of snakes. The locality also houses Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), National Law School of India University and Dr Ambedkar Institute of Technology. The area is surrounded by localities like Canara Bank Colony, Bhairaveshwara Nagar, Nagarabhavi Village, Kalyana Nagar, and more. It also has easy access to Outer Ring Road and has Zen Park at BDA Layout.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

In the light of upcoming elections, what are your demands as a citizen in terms of healthcare?

Nirmala Reddy, BM Reader
It is frustrating to be a senior citizen in India and to ask for free or subsidised healthcare and good government care homes for seniors.

Chetan Singh, BM Reader
My demand is for affordable and easily accessible healthcare in my vicinity, subsidised by the government and covered under the government health scheme insurance. Private hospitals should also be included in this scheme.

M Kittish, BM Reader
Healthcare is very important nowadays after covid-19. I request all the elected members in their constituencies to monitor all the government primary health centres (PHCs) and Namma Clinics. This will ensure that they are in good condition with staff available round the clock.

Raksha, BM Reader
I would urge the government to provide better health insurance benefits to all classes of society, preferably the lower and middle classes. Health insurance acts as a shield to protect families in cases of catastrophic health hazards.

Anuradha P, BM Reader
There should be compulsory health insurance for every individual with low premiums like they have in other developed countries. Infrastructure and other facilities have to be improved in government hospital.

Srinidhi, BM Reader
Healthcare is the most neglected topic during elections. Not to think about what happens after elections. I think this might be a perfect opportunity to start a universal healthcare system in Karnataka.

SPEAK TO US

What are the facilities that the government should ensure at the bus stops and stations in the city?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

True sporting spirit: Equality & fraternity

Former footballer's organisation on a mission to provide equal opportunities to the disabled, to underprivileged children, women

Maatru Pratishthana empowers children from underprivileged backgrounds

Dada Nabeel is a former India footballer who has had stints with clubs like Air India FC, Salgaocar FC, HAL FC and also Mohun Bagan AC. His father Dada Peer was also a footballer and coach who rose from the ranks in Shimoga. But once the Bengaluru-based Nabeel, now 34, ended his top level commitments with clubs, he concentrated on doing something that can be beneficial to not only footballers, but for the sporting fraternity and marginalised sections of society.

He got together with other well-meaning people from different walks of life and instituted the 'Maatru Pratishthana', a non-profit organisation catering mainly to the sporting community. More so for children who had lost their parents and needed every little support to grow up and lead a meaningful life.

"Maatru Pratishtana changes the lives of children, women and people with disability by providing them with education, healthcare and the means to earn a livelihood. Our welfare projects are focused in the semi-urban areas and remote villages of Karnataka.We believe too that when true development takes place it includes all members of society. This means ensuring that persons with disability are given equal opportunities to empower themselves," said Dada Nabeel.

"In order to elevate our society as a whole, the challenges that we face need to be tackled on multiple levels and using all the means available at our disposal. This is why we organise different kinds of outreach programs and camps. The intention behind this is to start bringing about changes on the most basic level and let that be the catalyst for further and bigger changes," he added.

"We have adopted government schools in the area as children from a poor background come. Many have lost their parents. We want our organisation to be their backbone. We have a residential academy and have tied up with the Reva Educational Institutions in this regard. Our residential wing functions from their premises. We have football, athletics, tennis, wheelchair volleyball teams," he said.

The organisation has undertaken sports coaching and events for underprivileged children, medical camps in villages across Tumakuru, Ballari, Raichur, Kalaburagi and other rural areas, distribution of mobility and work out equipment for people with disability, women's safety awareness camps, introduction to information technology in tribal areas, provision of tuition fees and bags for students in the remote village schools of the Tumakuru. "At least four women footballers have been selected to represent Karnataka in the ongoing Senior Women's National football championships," Nabeel said.

"Our vision is to ensure that all children in India can attain a well-rounded education, including participation in sports, and to create a society that is inclusive of people with disabilities. Our mission is to remove societal barriers preventing every child from receiving the education they deserve," he said.

> **"We are on the right track to fulfilling the objectives we set out to achieve. Together there is no problem that we cannot solve**
>
> –Dada Nabeel

He said they have received support from many quarters.

"But considering various aspects, nothing is enough and a lot more needs to be done. I can say we are on the right track to fulfilling the objectives we set out to achieve. If we all do something, then together there is no problem that we cannot solve," concluded Nabeel.

—SS Shreekumar

IN BRIEF

College student drowns at Udupi waterfall

Two days after going missing from an outing with his friends, a 20-year-old college student was found dead in a suspected case of drowning near a waterfall in Udupi district of Karnataka on Saturday, police said.

Chiranth Shetty, a second year BCom student at a private college in Mangaluru, drowned at Koosalli Falls in Yadtare village of Byndoor taluk in Udupi district on Friday, police sources said.

Shetty, a native of Koppa in Chikkamagaluru district, had gone to Byndoor with his friends on Thursday to enjoy summer holidays.

After staying at a friend's house, the group of youth went to Koosalli Falls on Friday afternoon on their motorbikes. Sources said others in the group did not know swimming and were sitting on the shore, while Shetty stepped into the waters and got washed away by the force of the stream.

His body was recovered after an extensive search by fire service personnel along with local people. Byndoor police have registered a case. PTI

Rain-related tragedy: 4 killed in State

Four people and scores of livestock have died in rain-related incidents in Karnataka, police said.

According to police, two shepherds died in a village in Gadag due to lightning on Friday.

Two women died in a village in Badami Taluk in Bagalkote after the roof of their house collapsed.

This apart, cattle died in Koppal, Kalaburagi and Bidar, police added. PTI

Eye of the tiger: Can K'taka get back on top?

As Tiger Census report to be out today, all eyes on State that once had most tigers

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The latest Tiger Census report that will be out on Sunday will reveal if Karnataka can regain its top spot with the maximum number of big cats. For decades, Karnataka had the highest number of tigers, but as per the 2018 tiger census, Madhya Pradesh had 526 big cats while Karnataka had 524.

As per the 2018 data, there were 386 tigers in the reserves with Bandipur having the highest number (173), followed by Nagarahole (164), Biligiri Rangaswamy temple reserve (86), Bhadra (38) and Anshi (11).

Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar Choubey said, "The quadrennial All India Tiger Estimation Exercise uses robust scientific methodology to assess the status of tigers, co-predators, and prey in India. The latest estimation done in 2018 showed an increase in the tiger population with an estimated number of 2,967 (range 2,603-3,346) compared to the 2014 estimation of 2,226 (range 1,945-2,491)."

The average lifespan of tigers in the wild is generally 10-12 years, and factors like old age, diseases, internecine fights, electrocution, snaring, drowning, road and rail hits, etc., and a very high infant mortality observed in big cats account for the majority of tiger deaths.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Wildlife Institute of India have published documents to safeguard wildlife and tigers from road/rail accidents in interlinking/corridor areas. Thirty-two major tiger corridors in the country have been identified.

Top tiger habitat

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Project Tiger, the focus is on Bandipur Project Tiger Reserve, recognised as the prime tiger habitat in the world today, where the project was born in 1973. The number of tigers at that time was only 12; as per records, the number has gone up to 126 in India as of 2018.

Bandipur National Park was formed by including most of the forest area of the then Venugopala Wildlife Park established by the government in 1941. It was brought under Project Tiger in 1973, with adjacent reserve forest areas added to extend it to 880.02 sq km, and the present area under the reserve is 912.04 sq km. The reserve is home to the highest number of tigers in the country.

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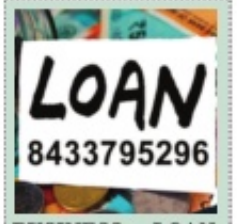

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Sathya Sri Narayan Gudu Ari is GPA holder G pandu Naidu r/o #240 Sri Sathya Nivas ,1st cross BDA 5th stage , Bangalore-61 lost the Original Khata Certificate of site no.1748 of Banashankari 6th stage ,3rd block , Bangalore belonging to Nethra S and Nagaraju R . finders call-9448267661

I, Afzal khan sulibela AsifKhan, S/o Asif Khan, R/o # 6 old 15 new D Street Rayapuram Main road JJR Nagar, Bangalore-560018 have my name from Afzal Khan Sayeed Asif to New Name Afzal Khan Sulibela Asifkhan.

I, Krishna Yadav F/O JC674370M Sub PK Yadav resi at Yashoda Nagar, Kanpur Nagar (UP) have changed my name to Shri Krishan Yadav vide affidavit dt 06/04/23 before Notary Pub B'lore.

Assembly Elections 2023

Ads on autos result in fines

Regional Transport Office books 452 cases against auto drivers for displaying political advertisements

POLL VAULT

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Auto drivers in the city, who had displayed transit advertisements featuring photos of politicians, are now facing penalties as they are not supposed to display any photos during the election period, which is a violation of the model code of conduct.

The Regional Transport Office (RTO) has warned auto drivers that they will be penalised with a fine of Rs 5,000 for the first offense and may have their license cancelled if they commit a repeated offense.

Many auto drivers had opted to display such advertisements as a source of income during the pandemic when the auto business had hit a low due to the work-from-home trend. However, they are now in a dilemma as they have to paste stickers to remove the photos, as they are unable to remove the entire auto cover.

Some auto drivers are calling for more sensitivity on the part of RTO officials as they claim they were not aware of the violation.

"The auto business has hit a low since covid. We are also looking out for various sources of income," said Somashekar Gowda, an auto driver who accepted the transit advertisement for a small sum.

However, he and others are now being booked for displaying the advertisements.

Now, we need to paste stickers to remove the photos as we are unable to remove the entire auto cover," said Shiva Shankar, another auto driver.

The RTO officials have already booked 452 cases of permit violations and are currently in the process of sensitising auto associations to ensure compliance with the model code of conduct. They have also issued warnings that if the offense is repeated, they will cancel the permit and may even register an FIR against the violators. This action is not limited to vehicles but also applies to posters.

Chetan Deshpande, a businessman, said he had noticed an increase in auto advertisements for elections. "It is sad to know that the auto drivers are facing the music. However, rules are rules, and no one can violate them," he said.

According to a senior RTO official, "We have already booked 452 cases so far for permit violation, and they have to pay a fine of Rs 5,000. It is an ongoing process and applicable within RTO limits. If the offence is repeated, we will cancel their permit."

Many auto drivers in the city had opted to display advertisements as a source of income

According to RTO officials, it is an ongoing process and applicable within RTO limits. If the offence is repeated, they will cancel the auto driver's permit

City hotels to only use Nandini products

Even as the political slugfest over the entry of Amul continues, the hotels in the city have decided to support the Nandini brand. The President of Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association, PC Rao, said, "All the hotels in the city have unanimously decided to use only Nandini products to encourage the local farmers."

Meanwhile, the entry of Amul has become an election issue. JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy called upon the people of Karnataka to oppose the sale of Amul milk in the state. Kumaraswamy accused Amul of strangling the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) and the farmers, stating, "Amul is being pushed into Karnataka from the backdoor with the support of the central government. Kannada people should rebel against Amul. We as Kannadigas should oppose Amul and protect the interest of Karnataka farmers unitedly. Our people and customers should use Nandini products on priority and save the livelihood of farmers."

He also accused Amul of 'conspiring' against milk producers and KMF, adding, "When the government here had shown such a magnanimous gesture, Amul is conspiring against milk producers and KMF."

In response to the controversy, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai stated, "Nandini will become a number one brand in the country, but there must not be any politics regarding Amul."

He added, "The Nandini products are sold in other states and all steps will be taken to overtake Amul in the competitive market."

Meanwhile, Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said, "Nandini, due to its high quality, remains the most preferred brand in the market. So to say that Amul is a threat to Nandini is an insult to our home-grown brand. We are confident that Nandini is ready to face any competition. Nandini's products are also being sold abroad. Nandini milk is also being sold in states like Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Our Nandini milk is being supplied to the armed forces." **BMB**

Covid tally
India registered 6,155 fresh Covid cases on Saturday as active cases climbed to 31,194

BangaloreMirror | 11
Sunday, April 9, 2023
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SC to hear plea on deal for its live proceedings

Top court to hear plea seeking direction for arrangement with YouTube to safeguard copyright of its live-stream, on Monday

#New Delhi

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea seeking a direction for a special arrangement with YouTube for safeguarding the copyright of its live-streamed proceedings according to a 2018 judgment.

According to the April 10 cause list, uploaded on the apex court's website, a bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala will hear the plea.

While hearing the matter on January 2, the Supreme Court had observed that it was very easy to criticise someone or throw a stone at somebody after a petitioner contended that the court's registry has not followed the directions in the 2018 verdict on live-streaming of proceedings.

The bench had asked advocate Virag Gupta, appearing for former RSS ideologue K N Govindacharya, what modalities can be followed for live-streaming at a time when the National Informatics Centre (NIC) was saying it does not have sufficient technical infrastructure to live-stream court proceedings without third party applications.

In its January 2 order, the bench had referred to an affidavit filed on behalf of the secretary general of the apex court in the matter.

The affidavit had said that the full court of the top court had taken a decision in a meeting held on September 20 last year to start live-streaming of proceedings before the constitution benches. "In compliance thereof, a decision was taken by the competent authority directing the registry through the computer cell to work in close coordination with the NIC, video-conferencing division to proceed with live-streaming on the NIC's YouTube channel with effect from September 27, 2022," the affidavit said.

A lawyer speaks on the phone outside the Supreme Court in New Delhi (file)

"It is submitted that the experience and knowledge that would be gained while live-streaming the court proceedings before the constitution benches would eventually help in further improving the system and adopting the same for other court proceedings, as and when so decided," it had said.

The affidavit had said that due to technical limitations, the secretary general of the apex court, as a temporary measure, is constrained to avail the facilities of third parties to ensure compliance of the directions of the top court in the judgment, the decision of the full court and to uphold the principle of open courts.

"The above extract indicates that a temporary arrangement has been put into place in view of the decision in Swapnil Tripathi vs Supreme Court of India and in order to uphold the principle of open courts. Since the affidavit of the first respondent (secretary general) states that efforts are being adopted for a self-contained and self-reliant live-streaming platform, list the petition on April 10, 2023," the bench had said in its order. – PTI

IPL betting: ED arrests bookie in connection to money laundering

#New Delhi/ Ahmedabad

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested suspected bookie Anil Jaisinghani in a money laundering case linked to an under probe Indian Premier League (IPL) 'betting racket', officials said Saturday.

Jaisinghani and his daughter Aniksha were recently arrested by the Mumbai Police for allegedly hatching a conspiracy to bribe and blackmail Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's wife Amruta Fadnavis and using private messages, purportedly hers, to extort money from her when she refused to save Jaisinghani (Anil) from several FIRs lodged against him. The Ahmedabad office of the ED took his custody on Friday approaching a Mumbai court with a production warrant and seeking his custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED was acting upon an open non-bailable warrant issued in the past against Jaisinghani by an Ahmedabad court that was issued in connection with the 2015 money laundering case linked to alleged betting in the IPL matches being probed by the federal agency.

Cricket bookie Anil Jaisinghani was nabbed in Kalol last month

The agency is understood to be recording Jaisinghani's statement in this case having obtained his custody on Friday. Jaisinghani was recently also taken into custody by the Madhya Pradesh Police in a case of alleged bootlegging.

The father-daughter pair is alleged to have hatched a conspiracy as part of which Aniksha developed friendly relations with Amruta Fadnavis and requested her to "save her father from the several criminal cases pending against him as the husband of the complainant (Amruta Fadnavis) is a public servant." – PTI

Rijiju escapes unhurt after truck hits his car in J&K

#Jammu

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju escaped unhurt on Saturday after a truck hit his vehicle on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

Police sources said a fully-loaded truck hit the black Scorpio in which the Union minister was travelling in the Banihal area on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

Reports said the security guards of the minister rushed to Rijiju's vehicle and opened its back door as the minister came out unhurt.

"No one was injured in this incident," the police said.

Earlier on Saturday, the minister had tweeted, "Going from Jammu to Udhampur in J&K to attend Legal Services Camp. Many beneficiaries of the Central Govt Schemes are attending the function along with Judges and NALSA team." – IANS

Woman raped, set on fire, dies

#Jaipur

A Dalit woman who was allegedly raped and set afire by a man in Rajasthan's Barmer district died during treatment at a government hospital in Jodhpur, police said on Saturday.

The 30-year-old woman, a mother of two, was allegedly raped and set ablaze by Shakoor Khan at her house on April 6. The woman suffered around 50 per cent burns, according to police.

The opposition BJP in the state accused the Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot-led government of trying to suppress the incident and said it showed 'jungle raj' was prevalent in the state. Union Jal Shakti Minister and Jodhpur MP Gajendra Singh Shekhawat alleged the woman died due to a delay in treatment. – IANS

Court acquits 21 cops accused of gang-rape

 # Visakhapatnam

As many as 21 policemen accused of gang-raping 11 Kondh tribal women 16 years ago at a village in Alluri Sitarama Raju district in the state have been acquitted by a Special Court.

The Court held the accused were primarily acquitted because of the failure of the two investigating officers to conduct a fair and impartial investigation.

The women were allegedly gangraped by the police personnel who belonged to Greyhounds, a special team, in August 2007. The trial commenced in Visakhapatnam in 2018 and culminated on Thursday with the XI Additional District and Sessions Judge- cum-Special Court under the SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act acquitting the policemen because of malafide investigation.

Meanwhile, the Court ordered that the survivors of rape be paid compensation through the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA).

According to a Human Rights Forum (HRF) member, none of the accused policemen was arrested and some of them went on to successfully superannuate while some died.

M Sarat, vice-president of HRF- Andhra Pradesh State Committee, alleged the "Greyhounds forces had raped 11 tribal women in August 2007 and a police complaint was filed against them but not even a single accused person was arrested."

The forum alleged that a 21-member special police party had gone to Vakapally village on August 20, 2007 for combing operations, and sexually assaulted the 11 tribal women belonging to the particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG).

"The very fact that the Court has ordered compensation to be paid to the Vakapally rape survivors shows that the Court reposed faith in their depositions," HRF said. – PTI

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Mobile export
India surpasses mobile phone exports worth Rs 85,000 cr in FY23

With AI, all bets are off

Study shows language AIs often make irrational decisions

The past few years have seen an explosion of progress in large language model artificial intelligence systems that can do things like write poetry, conduct humanlike conversations and pass medical school exams.

This progress has yielded models like ChatGPT that could have major social and economic ramifications ranging from job displacements and increased misinformation to massive productivity boosts.

Despite their impressive abilities, large language models don't actually think. They tend to make elementary mistakes and even make things up.

However, because they generate fluent language, people tend to respond to them as though they do think.

This has led researchers to study the models' "cognitive" abilities and biases, work that has grown in importance now that large language models are widely accessible.

This line of research dates back to early large language models such as Google's BERT, which is integrated into its search engine and so has been coined BERTology. This research has already revealed a lot about what such models can do and where they go wrong.

For instance, cleverly designed experiments have shown that many language models have trouble dealing with negation – for example, a question phrased as "what is not" – and doing simple calculations.

They can be overly confident in their answers, even when wrong. Like other modern machine learning algorithms, they have trouble explaining themselves when asked why they answered a certain way.

Words and thoughts

Inspired by the growing body of research in BERTology and related fields like cognitive science, my student Zhisheng Tang and I set out to answer a seemingly simple question about large language models: Are they rational?

Although the word rational is often used as a synonym for sane or reasonable in everyday English, it has a specific meaning in the field of decision-making.

A decision-making system – whether an individual human or a complex entity like an organisation – is rational if, given a set of choices, it chooses to maximise expected gain.

The qualifier "expected" is important because it indicates that decisions are made under conditions of significant uncertainty. If I toss a fair coin, I know that it will come up heads half of the time on average.

However, I can't make a prediction about the outcome of any given coin toss. This is why casinos are able to afford the occasional big payout: Even narrow house odds yield enormous profits on average.

On the surface, it seems odd to assume that a model designed to make accurate predictions about words and sentences without actually understanding their meanings can understand expected gain.

But there is an enormous body of research showing that language and cognition are intertwined.

An excellent example is seminal research done by scientists Edward Sapir and Benjamin Lee Whorf in the early 20th century.

Their work suggested that one's native language and vocabulary can shape the way a person thinks.

The extent to which this is true is controversial, but there is supporting anthropological evidence from the study of Native American cultures.

For instance, speakers of the Zuñi language spoken by the Zuñi people in the American Southwest, which does not have separate words for orange and yellow, are not able to distinguish between these colours as effectively as speakers of languages that do have separate words for the colours.

Making a bet

So are language models rational? Can they understand expected gain? We conducted a detailed set of experiments to show that, in their original form, models like BERT behave randomly when presented with betlike choices.

This is the case even when we give it a trick question like: If you toss a coin and it comes up heads, you win a diamond; if it comes up tails, you lose a car. Which would you take? The correct answer is heads, but the AI models chose tails about half the time.

Intriguingly, we found that the model can be taught to make relatively rational decisions using only a small set of example questions and answers.

At first blush, this would seem to suggest that the models can indeed do more than just "play" with language.

Further experiments, however, showed that the situation is actually much more complex.

For instance, when we used cards or dice instead of coins to frame our bet questions, we found that performance dropped significantly, by over 25 per cent, although it stayed above random selection.

So the idea that the model can be taught general principles of rational decision-making remains unresolved, at best.

More recent case studies that we conducted using ChatGPT confirm that decision-making remains a nontrivial and unsolved problem even for much bigger and more advanced large language models.

Getting the decision right is most crucial

This line of study is important because rational decision-making under conditions of uncertainty is critical to building systems that understand costs and benefits.

By balancing expected costs and benefits, an intelligent system might have been able to do better than humans at planning around the supply chain disruptions the world experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, managing inventory or serving as a financial adviser.

Our work ultimately shows that if large language models are used for these kinds of purposes, humans need to guide, review and edit their work.

And until researchers figure out how to endow large language models with a general sense of rationality, the models should be treated with caution, especially in applications requiring high-stakes decision-making.

(By Mayank Kejriwal, University of Southern California, The Conversation)

'It's a product, not research'

Meta chief AI scientist Yann LeCun has said that OpenAI's ChatGPT represents a product, not actual research and development in the field of artificial intelligence (AI).

According to him, OpenAI has not made any actual scientific breakthroughs and ChatGPT is 'not particularly innovative'.

"When we're talking about GPT-4, or whatever OpenAI puts out at the moment, we're not talking about research and development, we're talking about product development," LeCun said during a live webcast on YouTube.

"OpenAI pivoted from an AI research lab that was relatively open, as the name indicates, to a for-profit company, and now a kind of contract research lab mostly for Microsoft that doesn't reveal anything anymore about how they work, so this is product development; this is not R&D," he emphasised. **– IANS**

BITS & BYTES

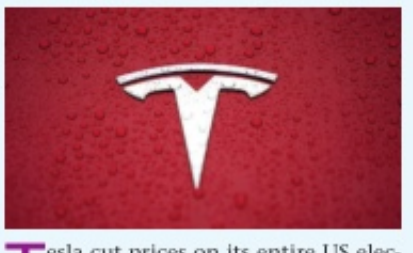
FAKE ALERT

Chinese search engine giant Baidu has filed lawsuits against "relevant" app developers and Apple Inc over fake copies of its Ernie bot app available on Apple's app store.

The company's artificial intelligence powered Ernie bot, launched last month, has been touted as China's closest answer to the U.S.-developed chatbot ChatGPT.

Baidu said it had lodged lawsuits in Beijing Haidian People's Court against the developers behind the counterfeit applications of its Ernie bot and the Apple company. "At present, Ernie does not have any official app," Baidu said on its official "Baidu AI" WeChat account. **– Reuters**

PRICE CUTS



Tesla cut prices on its entire US electric vehicle model lineup for the third time this year in an apparent effort to lure more buyers amid rising interest rates, Asia Nikkei reported.

The largest of the cuts that appeared Friday on Tesla's website were USD 5,000 per vehicle for the company's slower-selling more expensive models, the S large sedan and the X big SUV.

The company lopped USD 2,000 off the price of the Y small SUV, its most popular model, and added a lower-cost dual-motor version priced at USD 49,990, according to Asia Nikkei. The 3 small sedan saw a USD 1,000 price cut. **ANI**

TWEET STOP

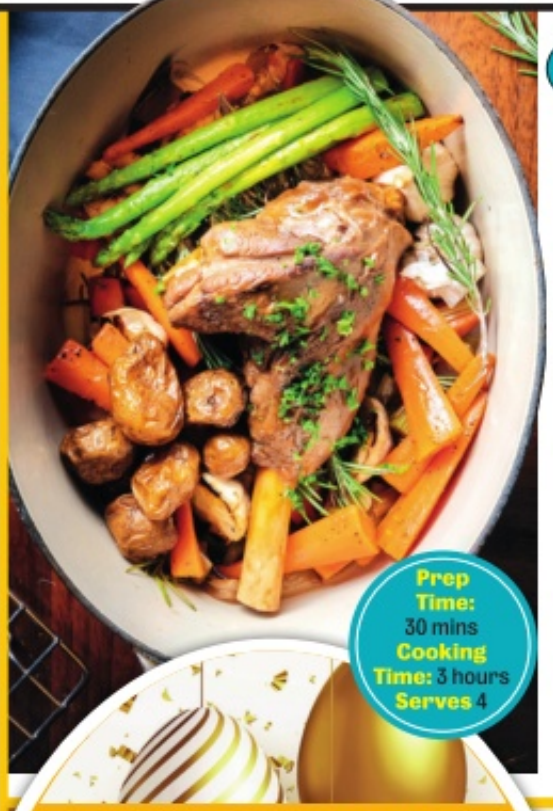
Twitter has restricted access to embedding tweets in posts on online publishing platform Substack, leaving thousands of users in a limbo.

Twitter has restricted promotion and visibility for tweets with links to Substack posts -- a move that has not gone well with people. "We're disappointed that Twitter has chosen to restrict writers' ability to share their work. Writers deserve the freedom to share links to Substack or anywhere else," said Chris Best, Hamish McKenzie and Jairaj Seth, the founders of Substack. "This abrupt change is a reminder of why writers deserve a model that puts them in charge," they added. **IANS**

HEALTH TIP: Research has shown that turmeric reduces inflammation related to arthritis, diabetes, and other diseases

EASTER SPECIAL

No Easter meal is complete without these dishes. Plate them up for a happy gathering!



Prep Time: 30 mins
Cooking Time: 3 hours
Serves 4

HOT CROSS BUNS

Hot Cross Buns are a seasonal yeast bread traditionally served on Good Friday, spiced with ground cinnamon and all spice and are studded with raisins. What makes them instantly recognizable is that the top of the buns is marked with a 'cross' which symbolically represents the Cross of Jesus Christ.

INGREDIENTS

- refined flour – 500gms
- fresh compressed yeast – 25gms
- sugar – 75ml
- unsalted butter – 75gms
- whole eggs – 1
- egg yolk – 2
- salt – 10gms
- gluten – 10gms
- bread improver – 2gms
- rum soaked raisins – 25gms
- vanilla essence – 2gms
- milk – 175gms
- cinnamon powder – 3gms
- mix spice – 3gms
- refined flour – 100gms
- milk – 35gms
- sugar – 10gms

METHOD

- In a clean bowl take the refined flour, salt, sugar, improver, and gluten.
- Add milk and eggs and yeast and start kneading into a soft dough
- Once the dough is kneaded and gluten is formed add the spices, vanilla and soak raisins to the dough
- Measure 30gms of the dough and shape them evenly and as round as possible
- Place the dough on a baking tray and let it rest for 30mins.
- Mix the flour, eggs, and sugar to a smooth batter.
- Pipe the batter over the dough before baking.
- Bake the buns at 200 degrees for 20 minutes.

Prep Time: 30 mins
Cooking Time: 20
Serves 30

SLOW ROAST LAMB

This slow cooked lamb recipe is ideal for simple entertaining and is perfect meat centerpiece option for Easter Sunday Brunch. This dish could be paired with great wines which further enhances its flavor and makes one's mouth party in Easter!

INGREDIENTS

- lamb leg – 1200gms
- salt – 50gms
- pepper – 50gms
- rosemary – 20gms
- carrot – 50gms
- leeks – 50gms
- celery – 50gms
- garlic – 50gms
- onion – 50gms
- red wine – 200ml
- lamb stock – 1000ml

METHOD

- Pre-heat the oven to 200 degree Celsius/400 degree Fahrenheit.
- Place the mirepoix in a large, oven proof casserole and season with salt, pepper and olive oil. Add rosemary and garlic.
- Drizzle olive oil over the lamb and season generously with salt and pepper. Place the lamb over the mirepoix then pour in the stock and wine.
- Allow to roast for 30 minutes then turn the heat down to 170°C/320°F for 3-4 hours until the lamb is tender.
- Allow the lamb to roast until golden brown.
- Slice the lamb once rested and serve with hot.

SCALLOPED POTATOES

Scalloped potatoes are an easy classic recipe, perfect for your Easter dinner. Originated in England, the word 'scallop' is basically a definition for how the potato is sliced. Thin and uniformly cut potatoes are layered in a casserole dish and then covered with a seasoned onion cream sauce and baked.

INGREDIENTS

- butter – 50gms
- onion – 50gms
- garlic – 20gms
- potatoes – 900gms
- salt – 20gms
- pepper – 20gms
- flour – 50gms
- milk – 50ml

Prep Time: 30 mins
Cooking Time: 45
Serves 6

METHOD

- Preheat oven to 350°F. Melt butter, onion and garlic over medium low heat. Cook until onion is softened, add flour and cook for 1-2 minutes. Once all of the liquid has been added, bring to a boil over medium heat while continuing to whisk. Place of the potatoes in the bottom and season with salt and pepper. Pour of the cream sauce over top. Repeat layers ending with cream sauce. Cover and bake for 45 minutes. Uncover and bake for an additional 35-45 minutes or until golden brown. Allow to rest for 15 minutes before serving.

Chef Soundar, Chef de Cuisine – Sheraton Grand Bengaluru Whitefield Hotel & Convention Center

All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I have a good friend who's become very successful as a social media influencer. I was so happy and excited for her at first, but it's turned her into someone I hardly recognise, which makes me feel so sad and like I don't want to be her friend any more.
She's got a manager, an agent and new friends, and I suppose I don't know where I fit into her life any more.
We grew up practically next door to each other and did everything together, but now I feel like a spare part or an afterthought. My parents have advised me to move on and forget about her, but it's not that easy. I just want our friendship to be the same as it was before. I'd love your opinion.

COLEEN SAYS

Well, I'm not sure your friendship can ever be how it was before. She's become successful and that's going to change the amount of time she has to have the type of friendship you used to have.
To remain successful on social media, I imagine it's pretty much a 24/7 job. It becomes your whole life.
A bit of fame and money can change people and they think they don't need those relationships they've valued so much in the past, and that's really sad. If her success ended tomorrow, she'd quickly find out who her true friends are.
Equally, when I first got famous, quite a few of my friends changed because of what had happened to me and my sisters. They couldn't handle it, but I've never been any different and have friends I've had for 40 years. It's also important to remember that so much of what's on social media is fake or edited and, while it may look like a party, it's a business. It's a tricky situation. But if she's a good enough friend, either wait for her to realise what she's missing or speak up and find a way through it together.

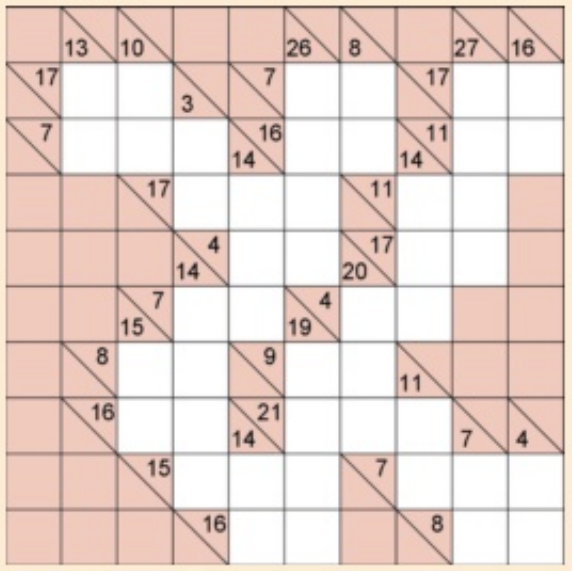
— Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

Kakuro

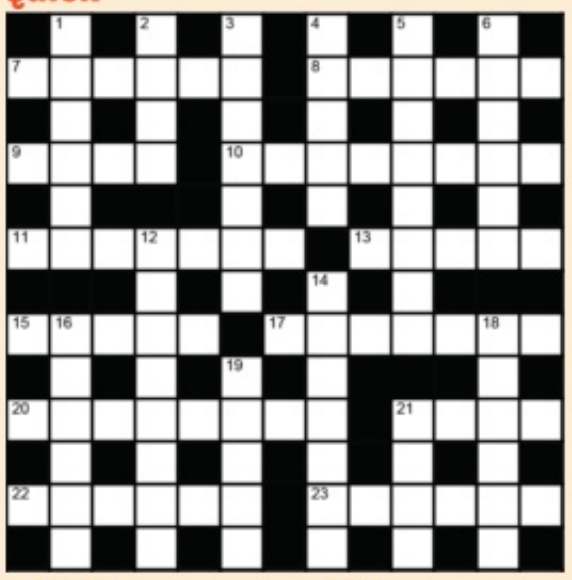
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 In ___ of : pro? (6)
8 Extra space (6)
9 Nervy (4)
10 By a small margin (8)
11 Spoke indistinctly (7)
13 Implies or insinuates (5)
15 Mock attack (5)
17 Whacked or hit hard (7)
20 ____ Memorial Hall: Venue for plays and musical performances in Kodandarampura (8)
21 Donated (4)
22 Cold symptom? (6)
23 Ancient Indian dynasty (6)

DOWN

1 Messiah composer? (6)
2 Sacred or pious (4)
3 Gave or conceded (7)
4 Frighten (5)
5 Dedicating or consecrating (8)
6 System of voting (6)
12 Illustrious (8)
14 Forerunner to chemistry? (7)
16 Petroleum by-product (6)
18 Diplomats (6)
19 Gave help (5)
21 Food (informal) (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: H EQUALS S

HQAAVHH MH XMFV ZVTAGM-
WE TW MNCPZSTWS IMZSGOTR
TWO UMWOMWE RPQ'ZV
VYTASXR SGV HTNV.

Linemaro

Even ifwe don't stay together physically I will keep you in my heart

Mindchow

Don't fear mistakes, there are none

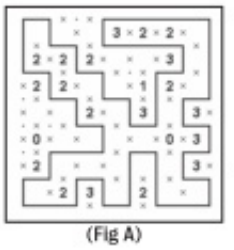
Joke of the day

You know, I'm sick of following my dreams, man. I'm just going to ask where they're going and hook up with 'em later

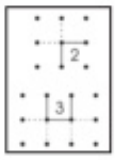
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

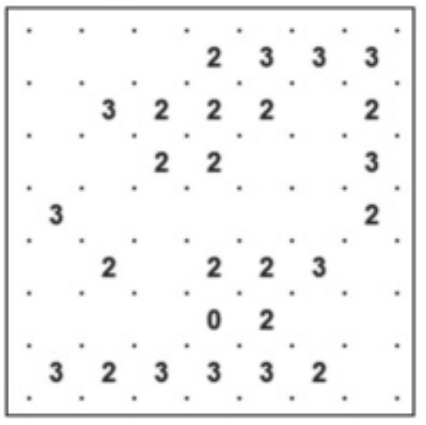


(Fig B) Not Allowed

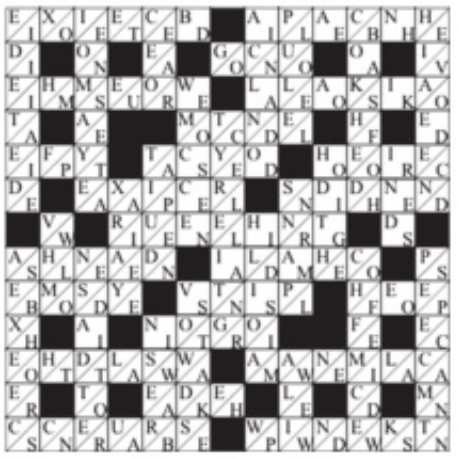
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



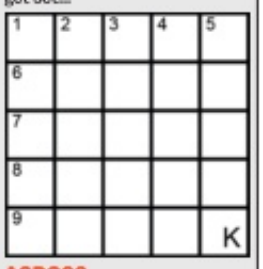
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set....



ACROSS

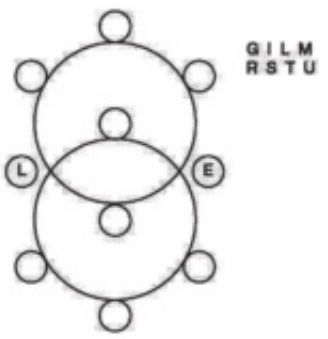
1 Asp do; 6 Bap ma;
7 I tree; 8 A gait;
9 Hooks

DOWN

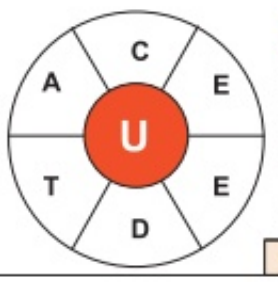
1 Drats; 2 He Boa;
3 A topi; 4 Mi Goa;
5 Spake

Mensapuzzle

Fill in the letters to spell out two fish of six letters.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2	1						7	9
7		4	9		2	6		1
				8				
			5	6	4			
4	5						2	3
			2	9	3			
				2				
8		7	4		9	1		5
5	3						9	2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 7
2 6 7 8

Medium = 13
2 2 5 8

Hard = 7
1 3 6 2

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

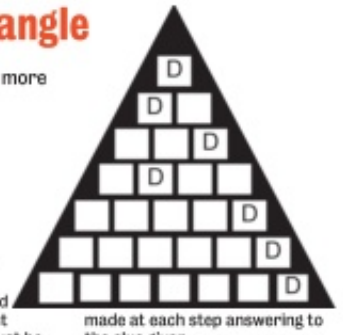
Differences: 1. Table leg is moved. 2. Wall is not as wide. 3. Lamp is taller. 4. There are fewer tiles in shower. 5. Mountains in picture on wall are smaller. 6. Puddle is moved.

Riddler

Augustus loves candy and much to his delight, his three favorites are on sale. One each of gum, chocolate and caramel cost 40 cents. A caramel is over three times the price of gum. Six gums are worth more than chocolate. A caramel plus two gums cost less than chocolate. What is the price of each candy?

Alpha triangle

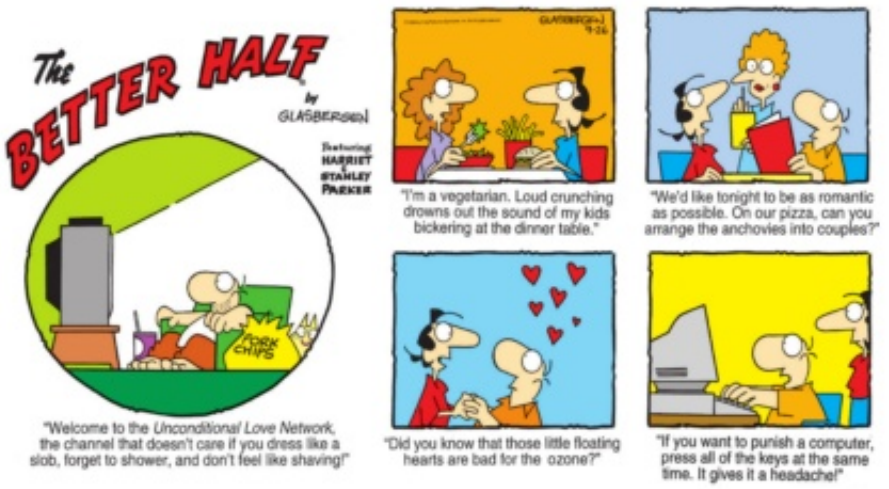
1 Five hundred
2 Princess, alas no more
3 Pan accessory
4 Lazy
5 Was fond of
6 Beaten (sl.).
7 Amused



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"Welcome to the Unconditional Love Network, the channel that doesn't care if you dress like a slob, forget to shower, and don't feel like shaving!"
"I'm a vegetarian. Loud crunching drowns out the sound of my kids bickering at the dinner table."
"We'd like tonight to be as romantic as possible. On our pizza, can you arrange the anchovies into couples?"
"Did you know that those little floating hearts are bad for the ozone?"
"If you want to punish a computer, press all of the keys at the same time. It gives it a headache!"

BABY BLUES
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAMMIE.
WOW! THANKS, ZOE!
RIP! RIP! RIP!
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A SWEATSHIRT WITH YOUR FIRST INITIAL ON THE FRONT!
COOL!
I HAD A FEW PROBLEMS ORDERING IT OVER THE PHONE.
YOU CAN'T REALLY TELL.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, PETER PARKER HAS GAINED THAT INSECT'S PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH--
--AND, LIKE HIS NAMESAKE, CAN CLING TO CEILINGS AND WALLS!
A PHONE CALL FROM ROBBIE ROBERTSON MAKES PETER...
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO LEARN MUCH ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS IRON FIST...
EXCEPT HE MAY HAVE SOME CONNECTION TO A NEW MARTIAL ART'S STUDIO DOWNTOWN!
IT'S RUN BY A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED COLLEEN WING.
AND YOU WANT ME TO CHECK IT OUT?
WHAT'S WRONG? FOR A GUY WHO GOT HIS VERY FIRST STORY BYLINE ON THIS MORNING'S FRONT PAGE--
YOU SURE DON'T SOUND VERY EAGER TO GET A SECOND ONE!
DAILY BUGLE MYSTERIOUS IRON FIST SHEDS LIGHT ON BROTHERHOOD ATTEMPT
SOMEHOW--SNEAKING AROUND TO GET IRON FIST'S PHOTO LIKE I DID LAST NIGHT--
IT'D LIKE I INVADED THE GUY'S PRIVACY.
THIS AFTER ALL THE PICS YOU'VE TAKEN OF SPIDER-MAN?
PETER, AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING A BIT LIKE OUR REVERED BOSS J. JONAH JAMESON--
--YOU'RE EITHER A NEWSHAWK--MAN--
--OR YOU'RE NOT!
PETER'S CHOICE!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be very happy and busy at work. Your seniors may appreciate your work and you may likely have changes in your place, position, or responsibilities at work in terms of promotions. Your opponents and hidden enemies may now be under control. Singles and love birds may make important decisions regarding marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, the messy situation of the past few days is under control. You are blessed by the moon and may initiate postponed works. With its blessing, you may get rewarded for your hard work. There are some gains in your business that may boost your finances. You may spend money on artifacts or literature, and you may also plan for an overseas trip.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be busy with family issues. You may explore your extra sources of income and take an interest in artifacts, movies, glamour, which may improve your creativity. Love birds have a clear view of their relationships. Students may now move towards their career goals.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may not feel well, and you might have health issues that may affect your profession and domestic life. You may likely be upset due to spouse health issues. Your patience may be tested many times, and you are advised not to make investments in new business projects, or you may face losses. Students are advised to avoid fantasy and work hard on their studies.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by a positive moon. You may feel healthy, and old health issues may be cured now. The amount that was stuck somewhere may likely be recovered now. You may also apply for a loan to buy some luxury-related stuff.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel very dull, which may make you lazy and careless. You may be unfocused at work, and impatience may pull you down negatively. Your kids' and spouse's health may upset you. You are advised to avoid making investments in assets, and love birds should avoid arguing about family matters.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may find negative vibrations around you that may make you unhappy. You are advised to avoid investing in worthless assets, and your friends may not be supportive today. Therefore, you should not expect more from them in terms of help; otherwise, it may make you more upset. You are advised to follow your intuition before making important decisions today.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be able to implement business plans successfully with the support of your subordinates. You may be involved in some social or family get-together, which may boost your network. You may likely go for short business-related travels, which may give you benefits in the near future.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today is a good day for your financial health. You may get benefits from your past investments. You may have control over your spending on worthless stuff, which may boost your savings. Love birds are advised to be polite in their conversations with their partner; otherwise, conflicts may arise.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and it's a good day for you. You have good vitality and energy. You may enjoy work and romantic moments with your spouse, which may improve family harmony. You are likely to make new plans to start a new project, and your perfection may help you design the flow chart. Job aspirants will find a good job. Love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be disappointed, and you are advised to control your arrogance; otherwise, you may face some losses due to your speaking while talking with anyone. Love birds should be careful in their discussions; otherwise, their relationship may be affected.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. New sources of income may open. Your past investments will now start paying off in terms of profits. Your losses will convert into profits, which will boost your financial health. Health issues related to parents may be resolved.

KIDZONE

Akshay Bharadwaj, 12 Years, St. Mary's Convent

Akash UN, 10 Years, St. Thomas Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
24/4 x 1/2
6 x 1/2
6/2
= 3

BULL'S EYE
acute, cued,
cute, deuce,
ducat, duct,
duct, EDUCATE,
educe, etude

FAST FIVE

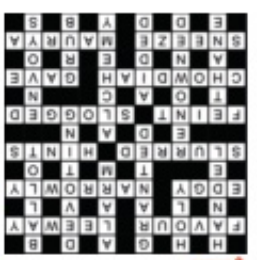
D	O	P	A	S
A	B	A	M	P
R	E	T	I	E
T	A	I	G	A
S	H	O	O	K

RIDDLER
Gum = 4 cents,
Chocolate = 23 cents,
Caramel = 13 cents

STRIKE OUT

S	C	R	U	B	S	W	I	D	E	S	T			
R	O		E	K	E	L		C		N				
O	T	T	A	W	A	M	A	N	I	L	A			
H		C	H	O	W	D	I	A	H		G	A	V	E
B	O	D	Y		S	N	I	P		F	O	E		C
A	H	E	A	D		I	D	A	H	O		S		
	W		R	E	E	L	I	N	G		D			
D		E	X	P	E	L		S	I	D	E	D		
E	F	T		A	C	E	D		H	E	R	E		
T		A		M	A	T	N	L		H		D		
I	M	M	U	R	E		A	L	A	S	K	A		
D		N		A		G	N	U		V				

QUICK



MENSA PUZZLE
mullet, pride

QUOTE UNCODE
Success is like reaching an important birthday and finding you're exactly the same.

SUDOKU

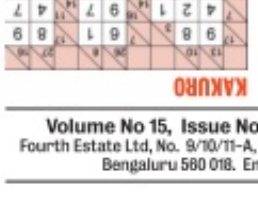
2	1	5	3	4	6	8	7	9
7	8	4	9	5	2	6	3	1
9	6	3	7	8	1	2	5	4
3	9	2	5	6	4	7	1	8
4	5	6	8	1	7	9	2	3
1	7	8	2	9	3	5	4	6
6	4	9	1	2	5	3	8	7
8	2	7	4	3	9	1	6	5
5	3	1	6	7	8	4	9	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, DI, LId, IdIe,
LIked, LIcked,
TIckled.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 – 2 – 6 + 8 = 7
Medium
2 x 8 – 5 + 2 = 13
Hard
3 – 2 x 1 + 6 = 7

KAKURO



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Star's birthday
A huge crowd of fans gathered outside actor Allu Arjun's house, yelling and cheering to wish the star on his birthday and he came outside and waved to them in gratitude for their love and support

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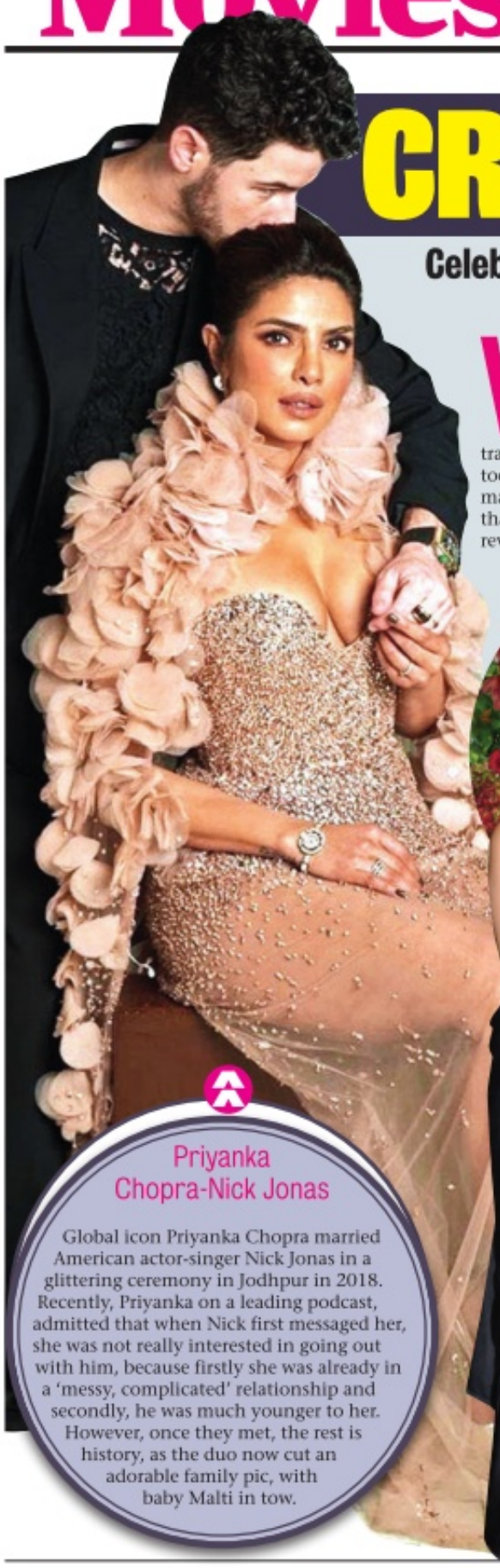
CROSS-COUNTRY LOVE

Celebs who are married to non-Indians

When a person truly falls in love with someone, it transcends any differences of religion, age and creed. Some love stories transcend geographical boundaries too, as many Bollywood celebs have married non-Indians, thus proving that love sees no differences. Here's revisiting some such couples...



Priyanka Chopra-Nick Jonas

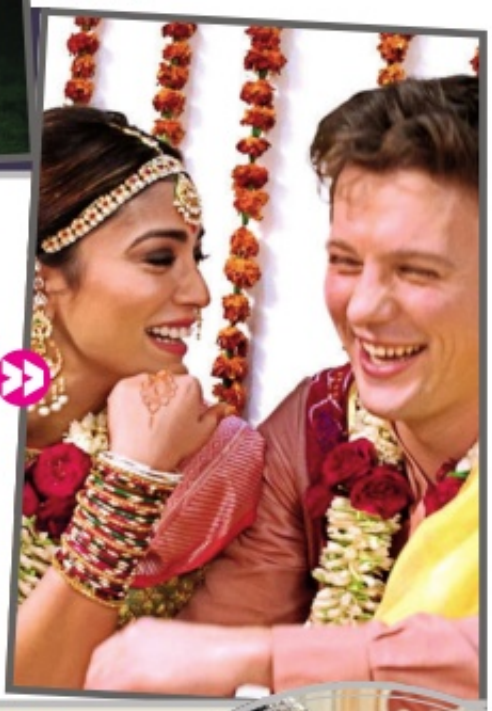
Global icon Priyanka Chopra married American actor-singer Nick Jonas in a glittering ceremony in Jodhpur in 2018. Recently, Priyanka on a leading podcast, admitted that when Nick first messaged her, she was not really interested in going out with him, because firstly she was already in a 'messy, complicated' relationship and secondly, he was much younger to her. However, once they met, the rest is history, as the duo now cut an adorable family pic, with baby Malti in tow.

Radhika Apte-Benedict Taylor

Radhika Apte, a powerhouse of talent is also someone who likes to keep her personal life to herself. Her marriage to British violinist and composer Benedict Taylor is unconventional by all standards - not only are the two in a long distance relationship, the duo also have no pictures from their wedding, as Radhika had once revealed. Radhika and Benedict had a 'DIY' wedding at a palace in Northern England in 2012.

Preity Zinta-Gene Goodenough

Dimpled beauty Preity Zinta took everyone by surprise when she announced her wedding to Los Angeles based financial analyst Gene Goodenough in 2016. Later, the duo hosted a wedding reception for friends and family in India. While Preity hasn't disclosed much on her love story, she reportedly met Gene through common friends. The duo, who have been going strong for seven years, welcomed twins Gia and Jai through surrogacy in 2021.



Shriya Saran-Andrei Koscheev

Shriya Saran, best known for her stint in South cinema has appeared in many Hindi movies as well, the most prominent amongst them being the Drishyam series. Shriya met her Russian husband Andrei in the Maldives first and after dating for a couple of years, the duo tied the knot in 2018, at the actor's residence in Lokhandwala. On 12 October 2021, Shriya announced on her social media platform that she and her husband had a daughter, born on 10 January 2021.

Celina Jaitly-Peter Haag

Former Miss India Celina Jaitly, who had a lukewarm run at the movies, met Austrian entrepreneur and hotelier Peter Haag at a store opening in Dubai. Celina has gone on record to say that there was an instant connection when the two met and the two are in fact, soulmates. The duo got married in 2011 after dating for a couple of years. The couple welcomed twin boys born in 2012. Jaitly gave birth to a second set of twin boys in 2017, in which one boy died due to a heart ailment.

Generous Brad

Hollywood star Brad Pitt allowed an elderly neighbour to live rent-free in his Los Angeles mansion.

The 59-year-old ' star purchased his home in the Los Feliz area in 1994 for reportedly $1.7 million and he started snapping up neighbouring properties whenever they came up for sale so he could build a large estate - but after buying one house belonging to a widower named John in his early 90s, Brad struck a deal to allow the man to stay in the house rent-free until his death aged 105, reports aceshowbiz.com. **IANS**

Up for a challenge

Since a few years Tabu has been making waves with her on-screen performances. From Drishyam, Kuttey to Bholaa the actress has won praises for the way she pursued her roles in her films. It might look as if it all comes naturally to her, Tabu says that it takes blood and sweat to perform these characters.

Ask her, in recent times, which was that role that was difficult to crack, and she picks her double role from Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2. She says, "Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 was quite a challenge. I think I played some 10 characters in one film (laughs). What made it challenging was the fact that firstly it was a dual role (Manjulkia and Anjulika). Then I had to play the young version and the present-day version of the characters. Then I had to play the bhoot (possessed part) and the normal part. Then there was a bhoot who is not the bhoot and then the actual bhoot and so on..."

She added, "On the set it would boggle my mind thinking I am playing what on which day. There were days where I played the bhoot and the normal character on the same day so between shots I would get busy switching my makeup. It was the first time I was playing the horror role, so it was tricky to do all that..." **—Onkar Kulkarni, ETimes**